

REMARKS

Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to overcome the objection.

Independent Claims 1 and 5

Applicant has amended each of claims 1 and 5 to recite "an optical bench disposed at the distal portion, in which a distal end of the first optical waveguide is seated" and "an ultrasound transducer disposed at the distal portion and coupled to the optical bench." None of the references, taken together or alone, teach or suggest such an optical bench in which an end of an optical waveguide is seated, much less that an ultrasound transducer is coupled to the optical bench. Therefore, claims 1 and 5 are patentable.

Dependent claims

The dependent claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 21 and new dependent claims 22 – 28 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above for claims 1 and 5.

The fact that the Applicant has raised only particular arguments in support of patentability does not imply that there are no other arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims and additional claims. Also, that the Applicant has declined to address certain positions taken in the Office Action is not meant as acquiescence to those positions, for example, related to the teaching of specific references or the grounds for combining multiple references.

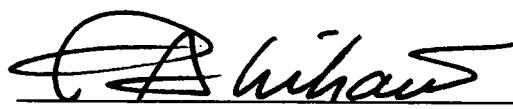
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Enclosed is a \$175.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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